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Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

June, 2013

NGDI-UBC Newsletter

(Please note the next newsletter will be September, 2013)

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NGDI Member and Partner News

Olga Pena Awarded the SWAAC Graduate Student Award of Merit 2013

The Senior Women's Academic Administrators of Canada awards graduate students across Canada for merit in their achievements. Olga Pena has been recognized for the important scientific contributions she has made in the field of Sepsis and her leadership in extracurricular activities such as the work with the Accessible Science Initiative and her involvement with NGDI. One of the criteria for the award of \$2,500 is outstanding academic performance as well as executive positions in student organizations, involvement in advocacy groups, etc. Olga is completing her PhD studies at UBC this year and we wish her well on her future Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Australia.



CSPS to Award Dr. Kishor Wasan with Fellow

The Canadian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences Annual General Meeting will be held at the new Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building June 11-14, 2013. Dr. Kishor Wasan will be awarded a CSPC Fellow. The primary criterion for election to Fellow status is professional excellence in the fields relevant to the mission of CSPS as well as a record of commitment and service, and a documented **sustained** level of superior and distinguished professional achievement and contributions in a relevant field of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

NGDI News

NGDI-UBC Hosted Ground Breaking Global Health Meeting

Canadian Experts in Global Health to create new Canadian Global Health Research Training Program

Global health leaders from across Canada met on May 3-4, 2013 to discuss the creation of a training program to educate the next generation of global health researchers. The meeting was hosted by the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at The University of British Columbia (NGDI-UBC). The discussion revolved around an initiative that will bring together Canadian researchers who are widely acknowledged as world leaders in their fields from different universities into a single, coherent national global health training initiative.

Canada has the opportunity to transform the current global health research landscape by bringing together Canada's top universities and the scholars at the forefront of global health discovery and innovation into a single coherent and integrated program. This philosophy will give the added advantage of bringing the wealth and diversity of the entire national initiative to bear on global problems, and create trainees that are knowledgeable in a variety of areas relevant to global health, as well as having a particular interdisciplinary expertise.



Day Two Participants

“Bringing together a cohort of researchers in training from basic, clinical, social and population health sciences into a problem-based education will improve their chances of developing innovative, multidisciplinary responses to complex global health challenges,” said Dr. Donald Cole, Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Global Health at the University of Toronto. “The next generation of researchers need to understand all aspects of global health”, said Dr. Kishor Wasan, Director of NGDI and Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies in the Faculty of

Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC. “Canada can have more impact in global health if the country bands together to inspire, train, and support young researchers from Canada as well as low-resource countries.”

“Combining global health training resources from several universities has been done in Quebec through the Global Health Research Capacity Strengthening Program, and I see no reason that this cannot be accomplished on a national scale”, commented Dr. Slim Haddad, Professor in the Department of Social and Preventative Medicine at the University of Montreal. The Director of Global Health at Dalhousie University, Shawna O’Hearn stressed the importance of group cohesion and a common vision. “Over the next few months, we will be mapping a way forward and providing a realistic timeline for the development of this bold new program.”

BACKGROUND:

Attending the meeting were representatives from Western and Simon Fraser Universities, as well as the Universities of British Columbia, Calgary, Dalhousie, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Saskatchewan, and Victoria. Also represented were the International Development Research Centre, Grand Challenges Canada, the Coalition for Global Health Research, the Canadian Society for International Health, the Canadian Federation of Medical Students and the Centre for Drug Research and Development. Written submissions were received from the Universities of Manitoba and Waterloo, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

Funding for this stakeholder meeting was generously provided by the International Development Research Centre, The Sandra Rotman Centre, Simon Fraser University, the University of Toronto, and the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at UBC.

Funding Opportunities

Killam Research Prize

Each year the [Killam Program](#) from the Canada Council of the Arts offers awards to outstanding Canadian scholars working in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences and engineering. These \$100,000 awards are among Canada’s most distinguished research awards. Recipients are chosen by a committee of 15 eminent Canadian scholars appointed by the Canada Council. **Research Area(s):** Humanities, Social sciences, Natural Sciences, Health Sciences, and (or) Engineering. **Deadline: June 15, 2013**

Prix Galien Canada Research Award

The [Prix Galien](#) is the most prestigious award in the field of Canadian pharmaceutical research innovation. This award recognizes the efforts and achievements of pharmaceutical research and development. The competition is open to any person or team who has been involved for at least the last five years in biopharmaceutical research leading or making a substantial contribution to the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of disease. Candidates from academia, health care institutions, research centers and industry are eligible. **Deadline: July 15, 2013**

The Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences

The [Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences](#) is intended to recognize breakthrough research in pure or applied life science research that is distinguished by its excellence, originality and impact on our understanding of biological systems and processes. The USD \$35,000 award may recognize a specific contribution or series of contributions that demonstrate the nominee’s significant leadership in the development of research concepts or their clinical application. Particular emphasis will be placed on research that champions novel approaches and challenges accepted thinking in the biomedical sciences. **Research Area(s):** Health & Life Sciences **Deadline: July 31, 2013**

Bill and Melinda Gates Vaccine Innovation Award

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is accepting nominations for the third annual [Gates Vaccine Innovation Award](#), which recognizes, celebrates, and spurs transformative ideas for improving health through the delivery of vaccines. By focusing on the delivery of vaccines, the award is designed to complement other awards focused on scientific research and vaccine development. The foundation will recognize the winning innovation with a \$250,000 prize, to be shared by the award winner and an organization that can further improve vaccine delivery. **Deadline: July 31, 2013**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Career Awards at the [Scientific Interface](#) September 3, 2013

BWF's Career Awards at the Scientific Interface provide \$500,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of faculty service. These awards are intended to foster the early career development of researchers who have transitioned or are transitioning from undergraduate and/or graduate work in the physical/mathematical/computational sciences or engineering into postdoctoral work in the biological sciences, and who are dedicated to pursuing a career in academic research. These awards are open to U.S. and Canadian citizens or permanent residents as well as to U.S. temporary residents.

Prior to 2010, candidates for this award were nominated by North American degree-granting institutions. Since 2010, eligible candidates for this award may self-nominate by submitting a preproposal.

Investigators in the [Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease](#) November 1, 2013

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the interplay between human and microbial biology, shedding light on how human and microbial systems are affected by their encounters. The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry and higher-risk research projects that hold potential for significantly advancing the biochemical, pharmacological, immunological, and molecular biological understanding of how microbes and the human body interact.

Career Awards for [Medical Scientists](#) October 1, 2013

Five-year \$700,000 awards for physician-scientists to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service. Proposals must be in the area of basic biomedical, disease-oriented, or translational research. Proposals in health services research or involving large-scale clinical trials are ineligible. Awards are made to degree-granting institutions in the U.S. or Canada on behalf of the awardee.

Stars in Global Health: ROUND 6 Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada announces Stars in Global Health Phase I Request for Proposals. This unique program enables innovators in developing countries, as well as in Canada, to develop their **bold ideas with big impact** to improve global health conditions. Awards are initially valued at \$100,000 CAD for up to 12–18 months to demonstrate proof of concept of the idea. Phase I grantees who complete their proof-of-concept projects and have solutions that are ready to transition to scale will be invited to submit Phase II – Transition to Scale proposals, which will require 50% matching through partnerships. **Deadline: Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. ET.**

Examples of the types of projects we have funded can be found at www.grandchallenges.ca/our-grantees/ and our recently released Annual Letter from Dr. Peter Singer, Chief Executive Officer of Grand Challenges Canada at www.grandchallenges.ca/2013-annual-letter/.

Proposals must include a two-minute video explaining the target global health problem, the proposed solution and why it is a creative, bold and innovative approach. The purpose of the video is to engage the public in global health

and demonstrate the creativity of innovators. These videos will be posted on Grand Challenges Canada's website for public viewing and comment. For more information about the Stars in Global Health Request for Proposals and eligibility criteria, please click [HERE](#).

Training Opportunity

Health Systems Strengthening: Improving Governance and Ensuring Equity

5-day intensive certificate course Ottawa, October 21-25, 2013



Interested in global health and governance?

The Centre for Global Health (University of Ottawa), Carleton University and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute of Basel are combining forces and faculty to offer a timely and dynamic, problem-based learning experience in a one week certificate course prior to the 20th Canadian Conference on Global Health: <http://www.csih.org/en/events/conference/>

The course is designed to provide a platform for analysis and dialogue to interpret the dynamic social trends and their influence on the evolution of global health and health systems strengthening. This multidisciplinary course is intended for a wide audience, including health development practitioners, health and development donors, civil society representatives, students and mid-level government officials working in the area of global health. The objective of the course is for students to acquire practical foundations in health system strengthening by:

- 1) Understanding current dynamics and trends in global health and global health governance
- 2) Understanding how these dynamics play out in local national health systems
- 3) Develop strategies for how to navigate in this changing scene in support of health systems and policy strengthening.

Prospective students should have, at a minimum, a Bachelor's degree from an accredited university. Preference will be given to students who have a Master's degree from any related discipline or five years of experience in a related area. Students are expected to have full proficiency (written and spoken) in English.

To apply to the course please submit your CV, as well as a paragraph outlining your learning objectives and how you expect the course to meet those objectives. The fee for the course is \$1200.00 CAD and includes teaching materials and lunches. There may be a limited number of scholarships available, which will be awarded on a needs-basis to developing country participants.

To submit your application and for questions, please contact Janet Hatcher-Roberts jroberts@csih.org or Bente Molenaar-Neufeld at Bente.MolenaarNeufeld@carleton.ca

The organizers reserve the right to cancel the course should there be insufficient enrollment. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ghd-net.org/HSS>

Upcoming Conferences

Global Health Workshop at Simon Fraser University – Dr. Sameen Siddiqi

Towards Universal Health Coverage: Challenges and Opportunities for LMICs

Dr. Sameen Siddiqi, Director, Department of Health Systems Development, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, World Health Organization will be speaking on Thursday, June 13, 2013 at Blusson Hall Room 10800, The Clamshell.

Date: June 13, 2013

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Location: Blusson Hall Room 10800, The Clamshell, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus

Registration: Indicate your attendance by June 3rd, 2013 [here](#).

BioTech Annecto – Vancouver Chapter Launch June 25, 2013

BioTech Annecto is a city based networking organization for biotechnology sectors: pharmaceutical, biomedical, agriculture food and cleantech. The aim is to act as facilitator and **networking** platform for biotechnology community representing **industry, academia** and **government** to discuss **industry landscape** and promote communication on relevant issues among the various stakeholders.

Since 2009, we have chapters all over Canada- Montreal, Toronto & Ottawa and now in Vancouver. The **Vancouver Chapter** will be launched on **June 25, 2013**. The theme will be [Academia, Industry and Government; Perspectives and Relationships](#).

Biotechnology: Academia, Industry and Government - Perspectives and Relationships

The "Triple Helix" of academia–industry–government relations plays an enhanced role in innovation of Science and Technology development. Each of them brings to the table talent, resources and differential perspectives that complement others and work towards seeking solutions for societal problems. At the Vancouver chapter launch event, we are pleased to have distinguished speakers, who have worked with academia, industry and government to explore the nature of these relationships, elaborating on synergistic collaborations as well challenges to overcome. Thereafter, the evening will be dedicated to professional networking.

Our Speakers:

Dr. Samuel Abraham is the VP Strategic Relationships and VP Research, BC Cancer Agency (BCCA). He provides scientific, business and policy expertise supporting high quality research and creating linkages with both the public and private sectors to help BCCA achieve its mandate of cancer control.

Thealzel Lee is an entrepreneur, angel investor and business strategy adviser helping companies and organizations achieve success. She is a senior partner with management consulting firm Rocket Builders, and co-manages the monthly (VANTEC) life sciences portfolio.

Darren Frew is the Planning and Communication Director, BC Bioenergy Network and experienced in leading programs to support the commercialization of new technologies and help businesses grows and has previously worked with Canadian Technology Network for NRC – IRAP.

Location: BC Cancer Agency, 675 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver

Date: June 25th 2013, **Time:** 6pm to 9pm,

Cost: \$20 (up to 48h before the event) / \$25 regular price / \$30 at the door/FREE if you purchase a yearly membership (fee includes 1 drink + appetizers)

To register: <http://biotechannecto.com/Default.aspx?cityID=6&pagelD=6>



Promotional Partner

Infectious Diseases World Summit 2013

GTC is proud to present its **Infectious Diseases World Summit 2013**, to be held in **Boston, MA** on **Jul 08-10, 2013**. This summit will bring together experts from academia and industry to discuss cutting edge research and new technologies used in the pharmaceutical and biotech fields. It will also give global biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies an opportunity to network with high-level executives from top pharma and various biotech/pharmaceutical companies, explore potential collaborations, and learn about relevant infectious diseases issues and deals that will affect the industry.

Registration to the conference will allow you unlimited access to the 3 tracks outlined below:

[10th Anti-Infectives Partnering and Deal-Making](#), [11th Vaccines Research & Development: All Things Considered](#)
[2nd Influenza Research & Development](#), [Registration](#) for the **Infectious Diseases World Summit 2013**

Reports of Interest

Database at a Glance: The role of the private sector in addressing malaria

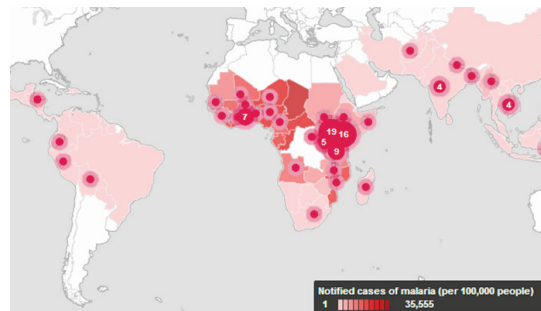


Center for
Health Market Innovations

In many low- and middle-income countries, the private sector delivers a substantial amount of services, including the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of malaria. [According to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria, 73% of all malaria treatments provided in 2006 were distributed through the](#)

[private sector.](#)

[According to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership](#), 40-50% of anti-malarial medications were distributed by the informal private sector. We at CHMI have been looking at malaria programs profiled on our digital platform to discover practices emerging at the grassroots and global level to eradicate this stubborn disease and save millions of lives. Across the 63 malaria-focused programs in CHMI's data set, [provider training](#) and [social marketing](#) are two common ways to generate demand for appropriate treatments ([see a graph here](#)). [Provider training](#) helps ensure practitioners and distributors will deliver appropriate care.



[Information communication technology](#), deployed as an integral part of 16 CHMI-profiled malaria programs, can help monitor the prevalence of malaria and track the supply of medications to prevent stockouts. [Supply chain enhancements](#), used by 10 CHMI-profiled programs, can improve program efficiency and increase the distribution of life-saving supplies.

A few examples of the emerging practices we identified around the world follow:

- [NetMark](#) and the [Tanzania National Voucher Scheme](#) have used vouchers to help low-income families acquire insecticide-treated nets.
- The m-health platform [ChildCount+](#) uses SMS technologies to coordinate the management of community health workers using rapid diagnostic tests.
- The [Affordable Medicines Facility-Malaria](#) (AMFm) initiative seeks to expand access to affordable ACTs through price negotiation and subsidies.
- [SMS for Life](#) uses mobile phones to track the supply chain of ACTs and quinine injectables in Tanzania.

[Click here to read the full blog and learn more.](#)

A New Global Partnership:

Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development

The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

May 31st 2013 - United Nations

Available online PDF [69p.] at: <http://bit.ly/19t1yHq> Website: <http://bit.ly/18CIZ4N>

“.....We concluded that the post-2015 agenda is a universal agenda. It needs to be driven by five big, transformative shifts:

- 1. Leave no one behind.** We must keep faith with the original promise of the MDGs, and now finish the job. After 2015 we should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms. We should ensure that no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied

universal human rights and basic economic opportunities. We should design goals that focus on reaching excluded groups, for example by making sure we track progress at all levels of income, and by providing social protection to help people build resilience to life's uncertainties.

2. Put sustainable development at the core. For twenty years, the international community has aspired to integrate the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability, but no country has yet achieved this. We must act now to halt the alarming pace of climate change and environmental degradation, which pose unprecedented threats to humanity. We must bring about more social inclusion. This is a universal challenge, for every country and every person on earth. This will require structural change, with new solutions, and will offer new opportunities.

3. Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth. We call for a quantum leap forward in economic opportunities and a profound economic transformation to end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods. This means a rapid shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production--harnessing innovation, technology, and the potential of private business to create more value and drive sustainable and inclusive growth..

4. Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all. Freedom from fear, conflict and violence is the most fundamental human right, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies. At the same time, people the world over expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs ends as well as means.

5. Forge a new global partnership. Perhaps the most important transformative shift is towards a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability that must underpin the post-2015 agenda....."
[Snippets]

State of the World's Mothers 2013

Save the Children, May 2013. Available online at: <http://bit.ly/ZVdOJK>

".....This report shows which countries are doing the best – and which are doing the worst – at preventing these deaths. It also examines the need to strengthen health systems, train and equip more health workers and make proven, underused solutions available to every mother and newborn who needs them. Such efforts could help prevent as many as 3 out of 4 newborn deaths.

The first-ever **Birth Day Risk Index** compares first-day death rates for babies in 186 countries to identify the safest and most dangerous places to be born. The annual Mothers' Index uses the latest data on women's health, children's health, educational attainment, economic well-being and female political participation to rank 176 countries and show where mothers and children fare best and where they face the greatest hardships....."

World Health Statistics 2013

Available online at: <http://bit.ly/12uJNUs>

"....15 May 2013 – The world has made dramatic progress in improving health in the poorest countries and narrowing the gaps between countries with the best and worst health status in the past two decades, according to the *World Health Statistics 2013*. "*Intensive efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals have clearly improved health for people all over the world,*" says Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO.

World Health Statistics 2013 contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets. This year, it also includes highlight summaries on current trends in official development assistance (ODA) for health.